

Murray History Advisory Board
Minutes for March 28, 2017

Attendance: Wendy Parsons Baker, Wendy DeMann, Rebecca Santa Cruz, Syanna Madsen, Sara Roach
Excused: Mildred Horton, Will Perez
Staff: Mary Ann Kirk, Lori Edmunds, Jennifer Broschinsky
Visitors: Jim McNulty, Tim Tingey

1. Minutes for February 28, 2017 were approved.
2. Jim was introduced to the board as the new Development Services Director under Tim Tingey's department. Tim noted that he should be able to report on the museum location status soon. He also reported that he is meeting with the downtown neighborhood related to proposed projects on State and Vine Street. His department is not a sponsor of that. They will still be putting forth a recommendation for those proposals based on input from the history board and others.
3. Tim reviewed the basic proposed wording changes to the MCCD ordinance which included demolition of buildings and other elements. He explained the problem they were encountering when a large project involved multiple phases that needed a longer time frame. They wanted to clarify that demolition timing included all phases of the project related to a building permit.

The wording also proposed lowering the bond amount from 125% to 110 %. The current amount seemed to be extremely high, discouraging most potential parties. Mary Ann explained the original amount of 125% was intentionally used so a developer was fully invested in the project. There was concern that a developer would submit a proposal, get approval, demolish one or more significant historic buildings, and then back out part way through the project. Tim felt the bonding process helps protect that from happening. Jim said a proposal and design must be submitted and approved. Mary Ann asked if this is substantial enough to prevent a developer from walking midway. Tim felt the bonding level was significant. Syanna clarified that it sounds like they are actually better off finishing the project versus walking. Tim and Jim agreed.

Tim also explained some changes to the requirements for ground level commercial and mixed use. Syanna said that some issues related to use are not within the scope of the history board, but agreed that the history elements should be properly honored.

Tim explained the Design Review Committee has chosen to wait on recommendations for the proposed wording changes. It could change but Tim thought it wouldn't be any less restrictive. Mary Ann stressed the importance of giving us a heads up as early as possible so we have a chance to provide thoughtful input.

Mary Ann noted that she had met with the developers last week and reviewed the formal recommendations from the history board. She stressed that the recommendations applied only if the criteria for demolition of historic buildings established in the MCCD code was fully met. It is important that the proposed developments meet the vision for the MCCD zone, including historic preservation. It can't be one sided only from the perspective of the developer. They didn't understand the bookend idea with the Carnegie Library and the twin duplexes. Tim expressed frustration about the proposed projects and the long term vision for the MCCD. They will try to keep us updated on the status of the wording changes and the projects.

4. Mary Ann shared the developer's idea for a plaza that had a pavilion type structure featuring the roof line of the twin duplexes and another feature that was suppose to represent the top of the church. Lori thought the pavilion looked like a tikki hut. Mary Ann didn't think the architects understood the historic significance of these buildings and their mitigation efforts reflected that attitude. Mary Ann explained to them that historic preservation typically moves away from mimicking historic buildings but mitigation still needs to properly incorporate elements that are recognizable. Lori indicated one of the architects made a comment about the smokestacks and how much sickness they caused. Syanna said you can honor and respect the past without pretending there weren't problems with it. The board wondered why they couldn't save the last duplex as a bookend. The board was pleased that the staff were really making an effort to evaluate if these projects met the vision of the MCCD.

5. Heritage Days will include a presentation to the City Council on May 2. Syanna will present the art award to Bunny Ankney and a short summary of history projects over the past year. Mary Ann will help prepare the information. Mary Ann has scheduled a historic bus tour on May 20 at 10 am starting at city hall through some of the districts and the main transportation corridors.
6. Jennifer described current projects at the museum. She is working on inventory and making sure our collection is properly documented. We have somewhere around 4000 artifacts. She has permission to be an administrator for the Marriott Library photo collection and will be trained soon. Jennifer provided a list of potential museum camps. She is visiting another museum to find out how they work their programs. She also talked with Virginia Cotterel and she suggested you don't use "experts" for instruction because they get too deep for kids. It isn't school. It should be short with an activity project they can do. Board members liked the title of Museum Mondays and suggested Jennifer pick the ones she liked the best. Wendy could be a good presenter. She has done a demonstration on leather making. She has been working on quill pens and penmanship. Mary Ann said we have some certificates from the Palmer Method program that was used in the schools. Jennifer is still looking for tour guides.

Jennifer talked to Jennifer Ortiz about how to move a museum. Mary Ann said it is possible we will be moving this year. We will need to design the new space which may include new exhibits or rearrange the current exhibit. Jennifer wants to organize the objects so they can be moved to the proper areas within the new museum. Mary Ann said we have \$15,000 left from the EPA mitigation. We could use that for the move but we will need more. The table top will be challenging.

7. The Board formally approved the addition of Jennifer Broschinsky to the museum collections committee which is also comprised of Mary Ann Kirk and Sara Roach from the board. It requires three people.
8. A demolition request for the home at 5419 S 900 East has been submitted. This was recently added to the National Register. The zoning for the area was changed to allow an office and a credit union office will be built there. It was fully documented for the national register nomination. Board members would like to visit the home to see if there is anything we would like for the museum.
9. A review of historic preservation was presented. We have a good data base. Mary Ann shared maps of our National Register historic districts and a summary of all homes on our local register. Mary Ann has asked GIS to create a large map with this information. Syanna asked if this could be accessible to the public. Mary Ann will ask. We have 588 buildings on our register including 447 buildings within districts and 141 listed individually outside of districts with 8 of those on the National Register. We will be submitting 4 new national register nominations and 1 district addition over the coming year. The state data base lists 442 eligible significant buildings and 3325 contributing buildings that include older neighborhoods. Mary Ann wondered if we should pull the commercial buildings from the commercial district into the residential district revision since the west side buildings might be demolished. After discussion, the board agreed we should wait to see what happens with the historic buildings on State Street and the buildings on Vine are listed in the residential district. She could ask Roger Roper at the state to see when would be the best timing to bring the historic buildings in the commercial district into the residential district or list them individually. Some of them already are.
10. Mary Ann suggested the board focus on the current CLG projects (4 nominations, 2 ILS surveys including the cemetery, and the district addition), the Ore Sampling Mill, and the Murray Theater. They could then review other potential buildings that could be added to the national multiple property listings that reflect the architectural history of the city up through the 1960s. She explained the board has discussed a landmark ordinance with restrictions in the past but has felt it did not have support. Rebecca felt it can be counter-productive because it is harder to get a loan to buy a historic building so it can backfire.
11. Wendy suggested Michelle McFarlane would be a good possibility for the board to represent the southeast area of the city.